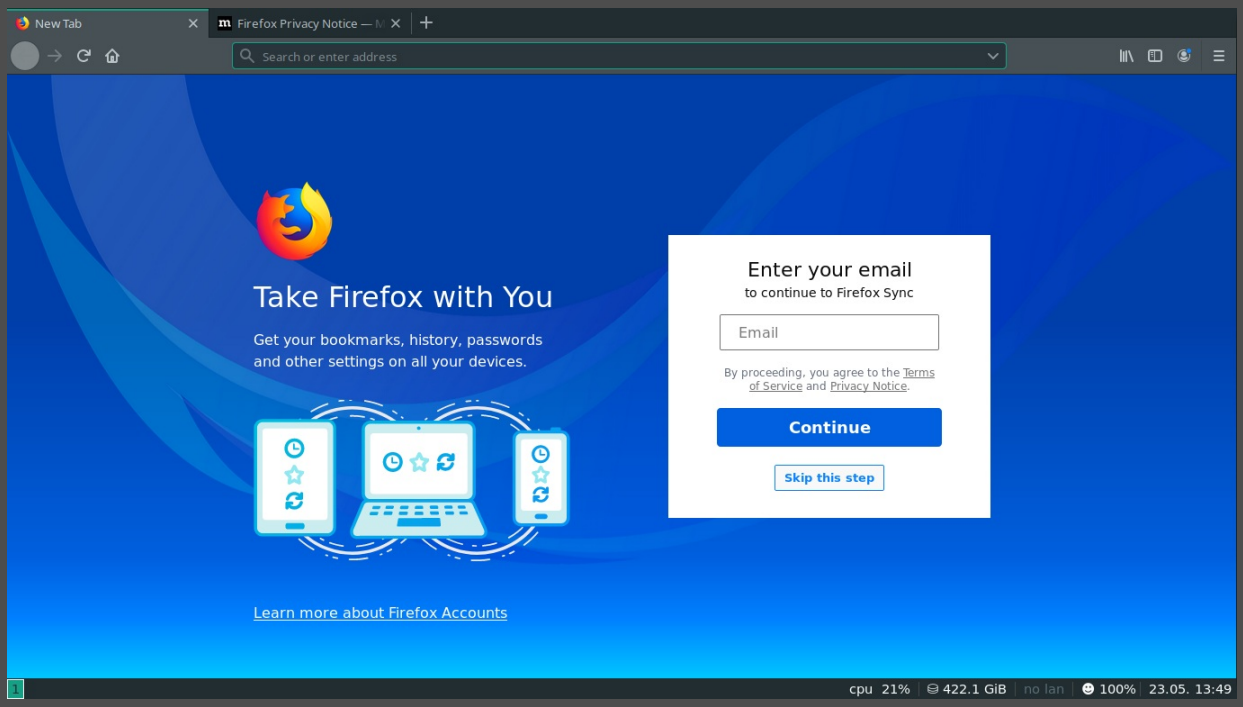
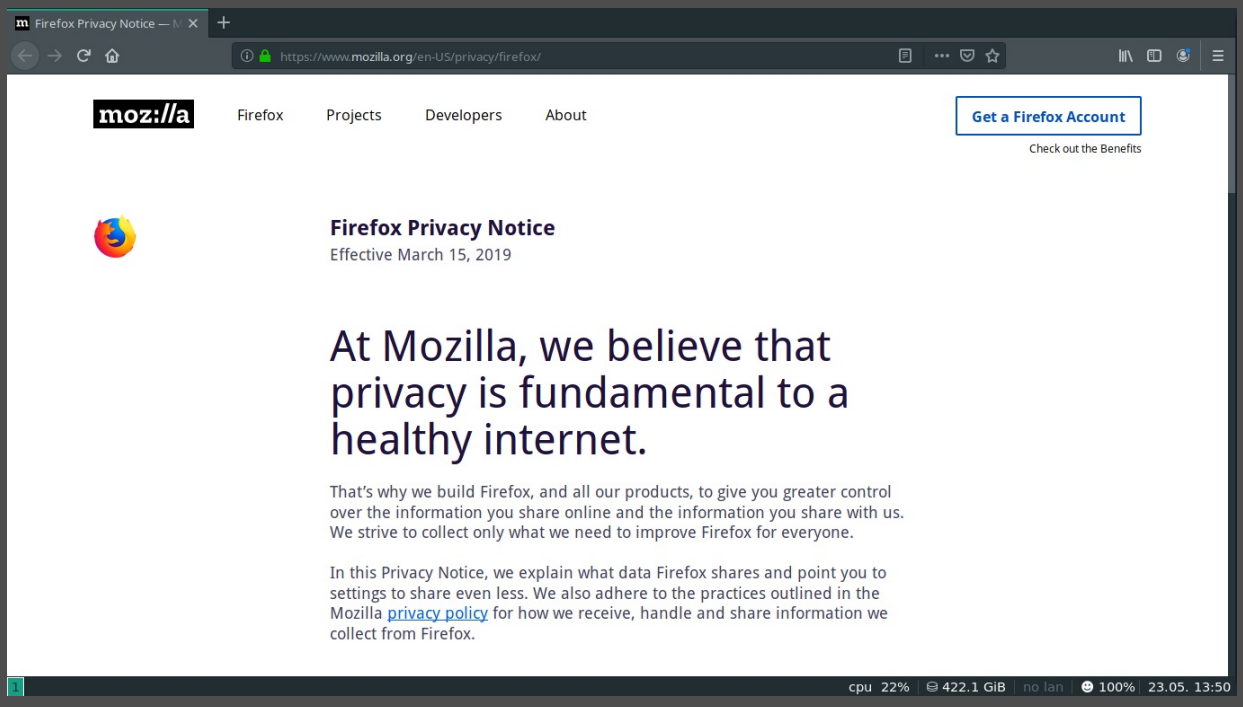
Firefox Install



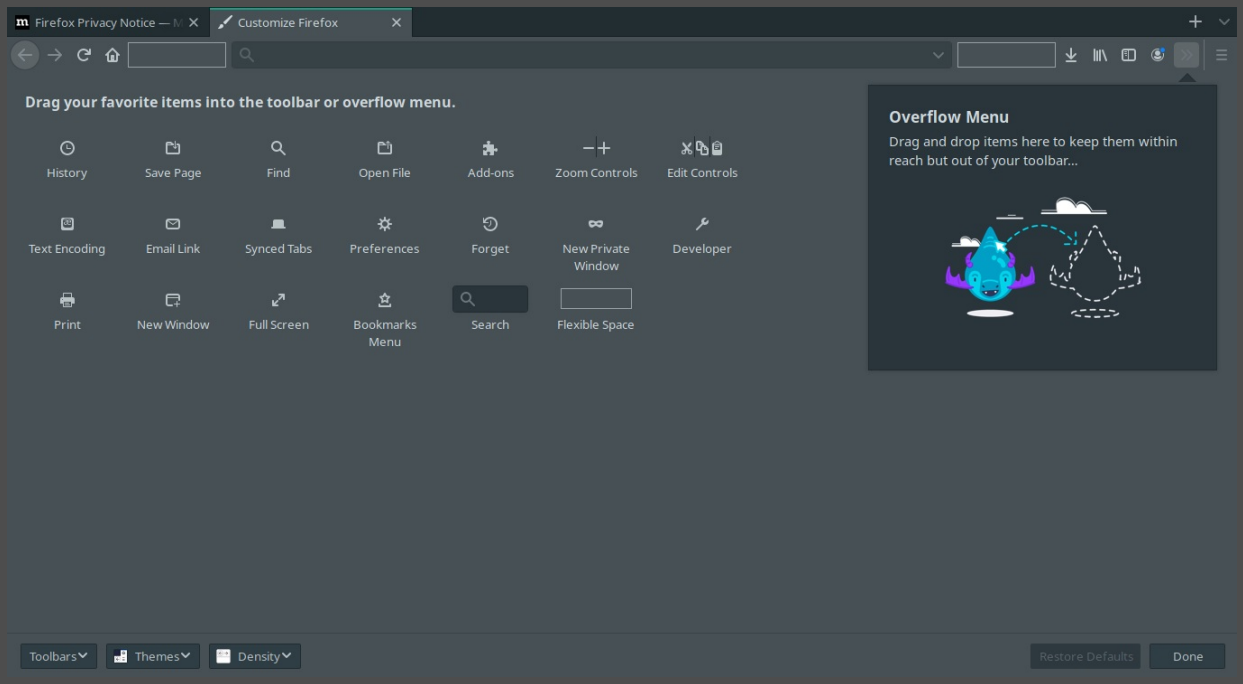
Preface

I wrote this tutorial because I have been asked so many times in the last weeks how to set up the Firefox browser. These are always the same people. Mothers and fathers of acquaintances and friends or people who hear in a conversation that you have studied computer science. There is this tutorial certainly on almost every SEO website in the net, but here on my website I have no advertisement which is displayed and I know also where I must search immediately. There are certainly some places that you can argue about or that you (know-it-all) would do differently. You can send me a reasonable and friendly criticism to my mail acc. I also notice here that the tutorial is written for beginners who don't work as programmers or professional hackers. This should make it easier to get started and improve the security of your computer system. Even if I use Manjaro as my operating system, it is the same on all other systems (Apple, Windows). So there are no differences, except maybe in the user interface, but you should be able to handle that. Personally I try not to use the Firefox browser anymore, but I don't have a reasonable alternative.

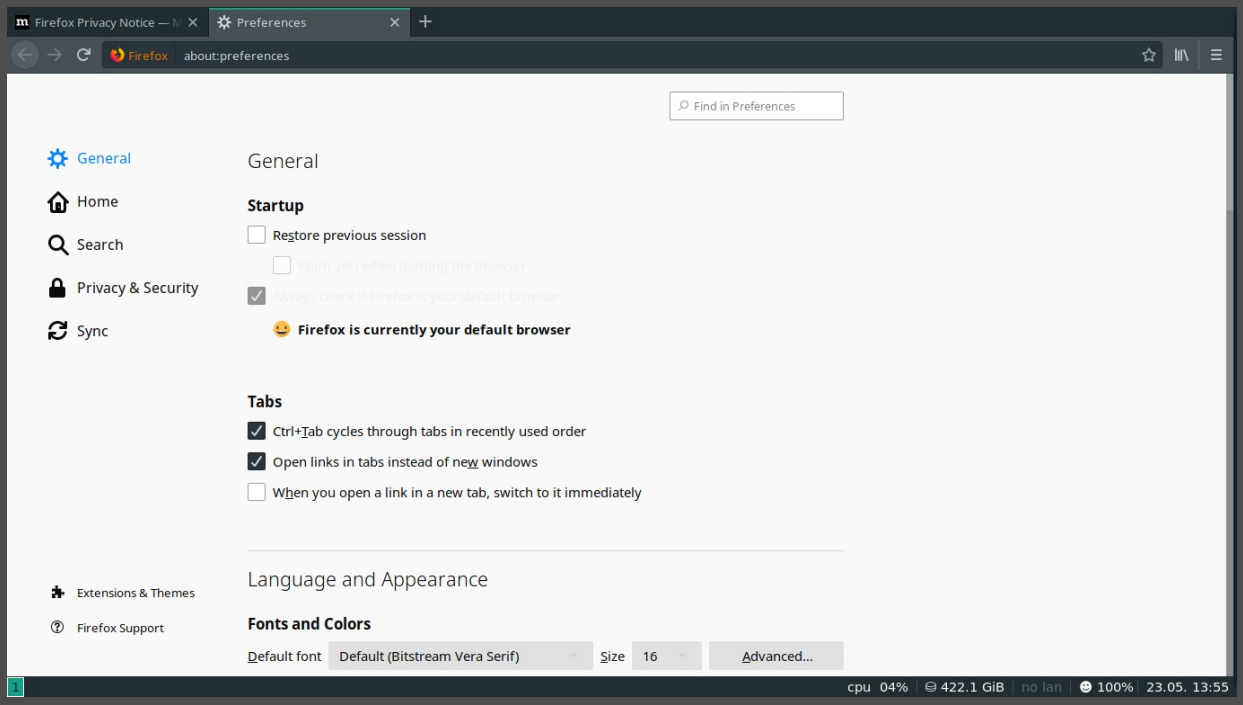


After we have successfully installed the Firefox browser, we can start with the setup right away. Here are a few personal words about the Firefox project. I don't trust Mozilla and find that too much data is collected in this browser. Sure, the people in charge want to stay competitive on the market, but I don't think it's good if it's done at my expense. Instead of collecting more and more data, Firefox (unlike the Chrome browser) could collect points if the browser collected less data.

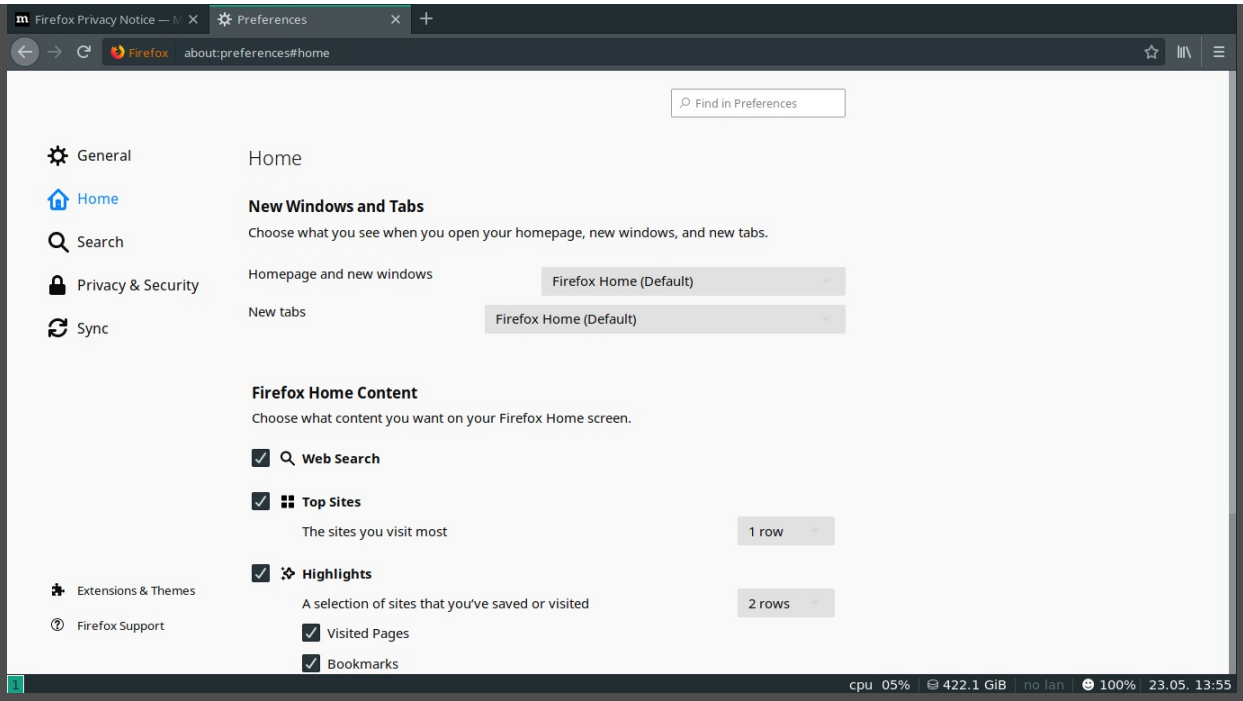
There are some other points that bother me, e.g. that RSS was replaced by a proprietary development (pocket) and so on. I want a free and open web and no shit web. Furthermore the resource consumption and the slowness of the browser disturbs me and that is a fundamental deal breaker for me. so I don't read through what is in the Firefox privacy notice because I don't trust Mozilla anyway.

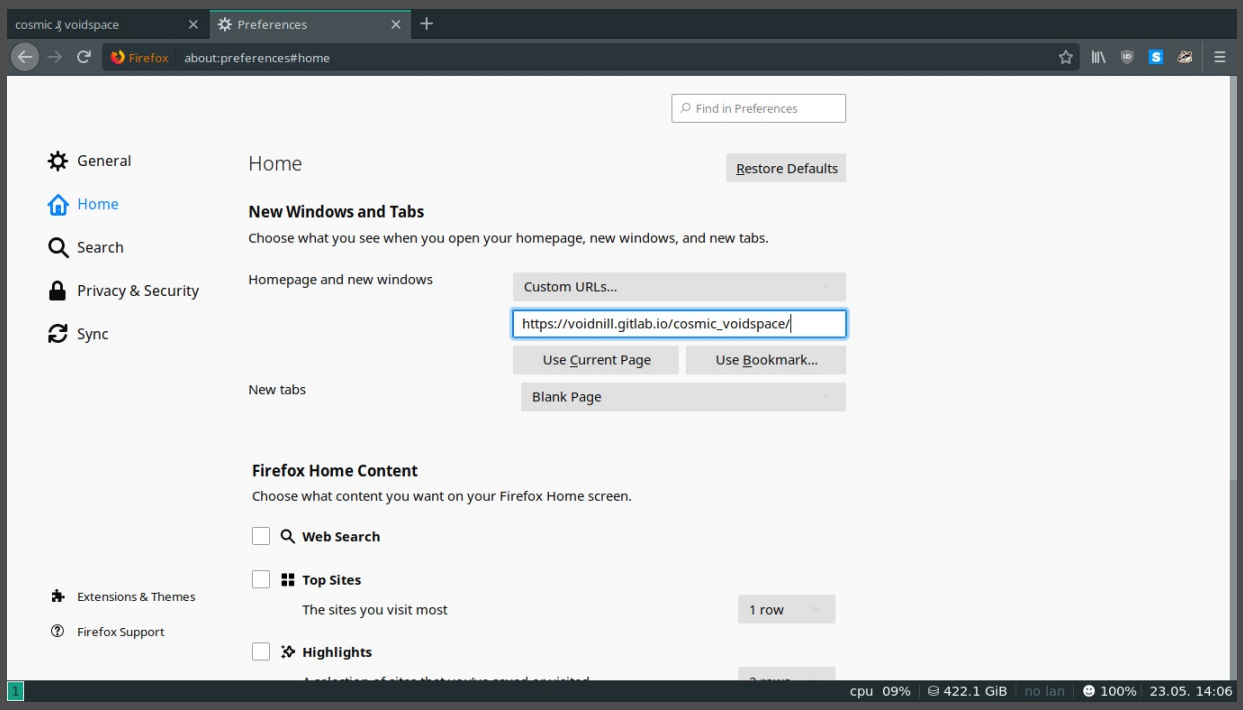


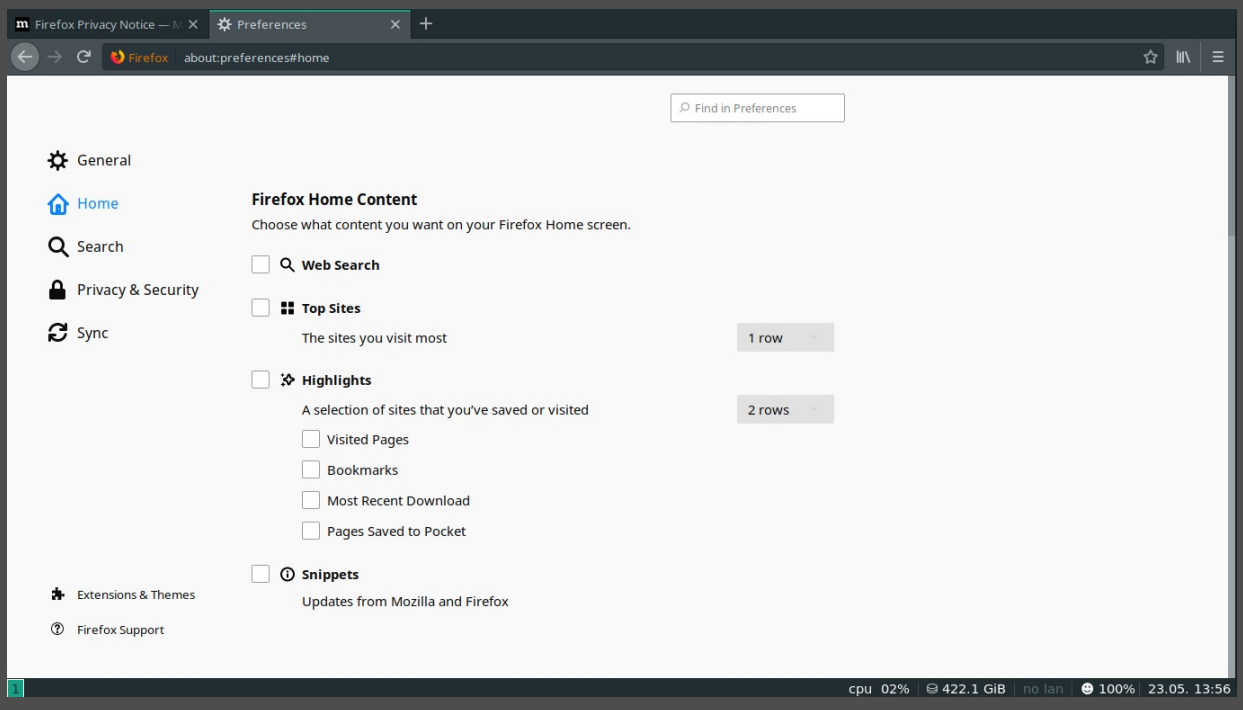
This step is optional. As you can see on the following screenshots, I have to adjust the appearance of the browser, otherwise I can't work properly. Overall the user interface is exhausting to use, but as I mentioned in a paragraph above, there is no reasonable solution yet.



To get to the settings we click on the `burger icon` (three horizontal bars) in the upper right corner. This will take us via the menu item `preferences` to the home page `general` where we can make the various settings. We checked the checkbox, which checks if Firefox is the default browser. I do this because I use different applications that would like to use their browser. Unfortunately they collect even more data than Forefox, so I have set it to this setting. Otherwise all important checkboxes are already checked and we don't have to set anything on this page anymore.

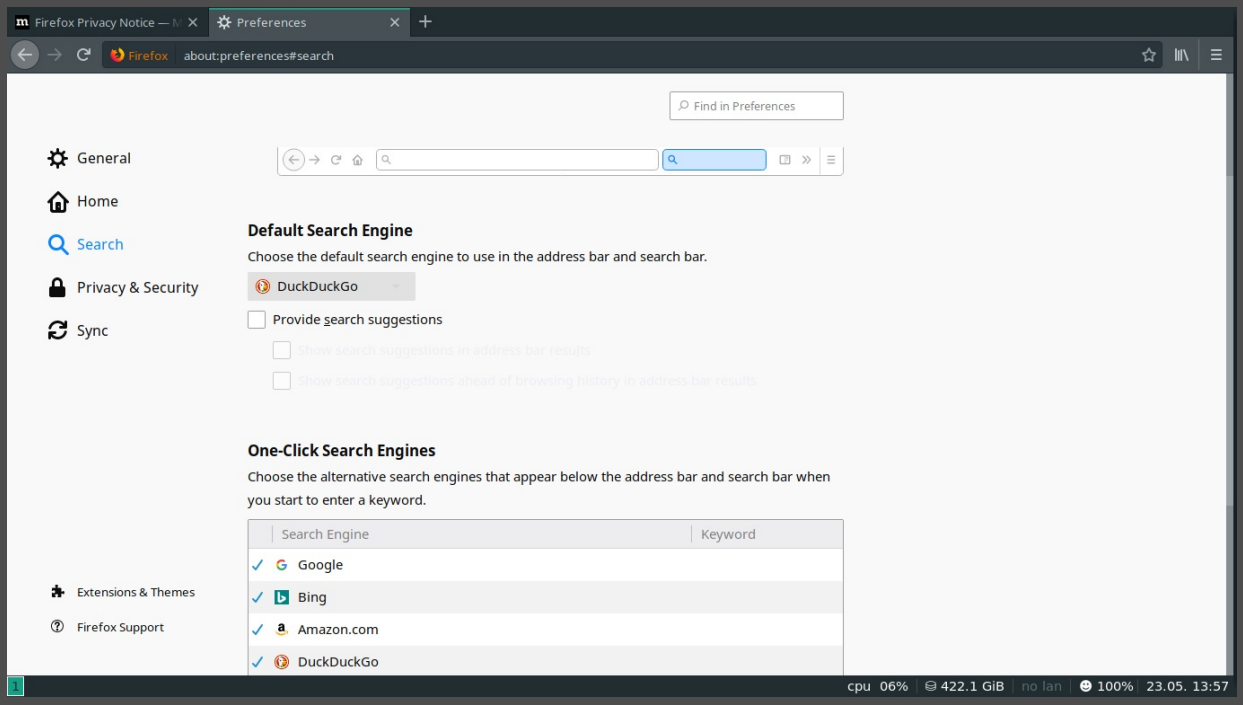




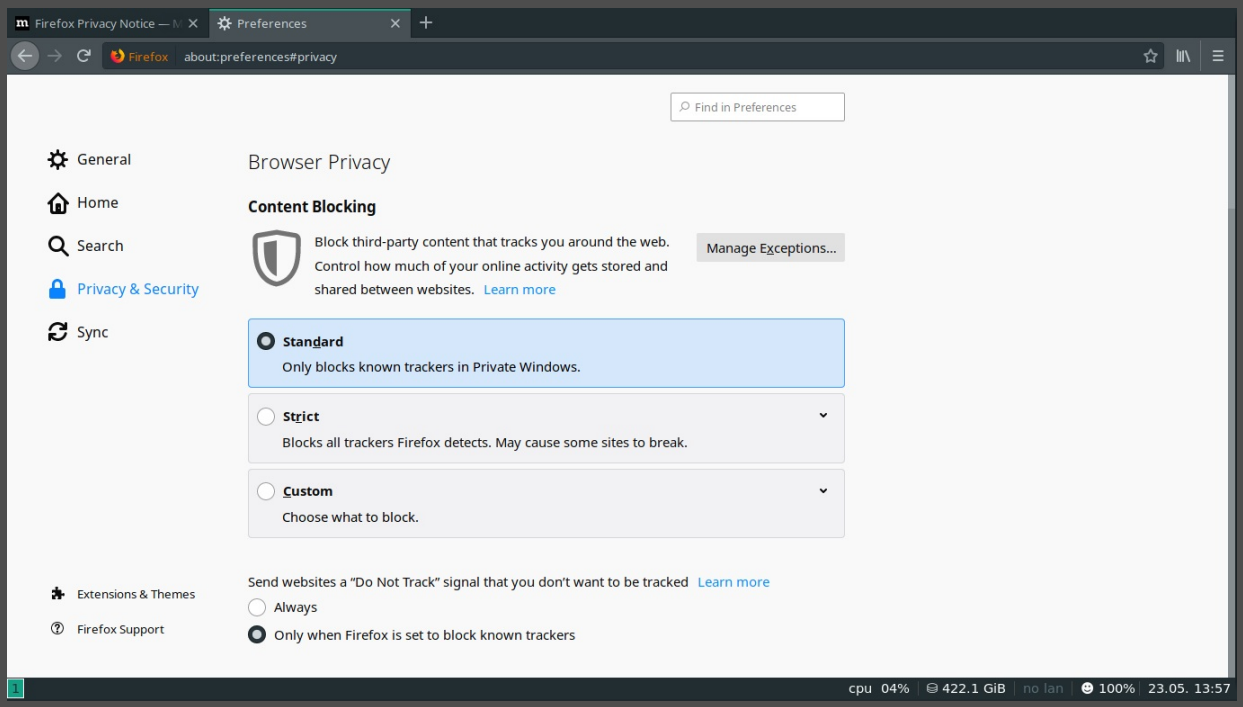


In `home` we make some changes. With `new windows and tabs` you can set your home page to blank or

enter a domain. If you want to support my website, you can register my domain and always be up to date on my projects. This step is also optional and you don't have to. At `firefox home content` we remove all hooks at the checkboxes (web search, top sites, highlights an snippets). If you have entered the start page of Mozilla, it can take a little too long, because then a lot of information has to be loaded which you might not be interested in. When I set up Firefox for a customer, friend or acquaintance, I usually set up the white page because it loads the fastest.



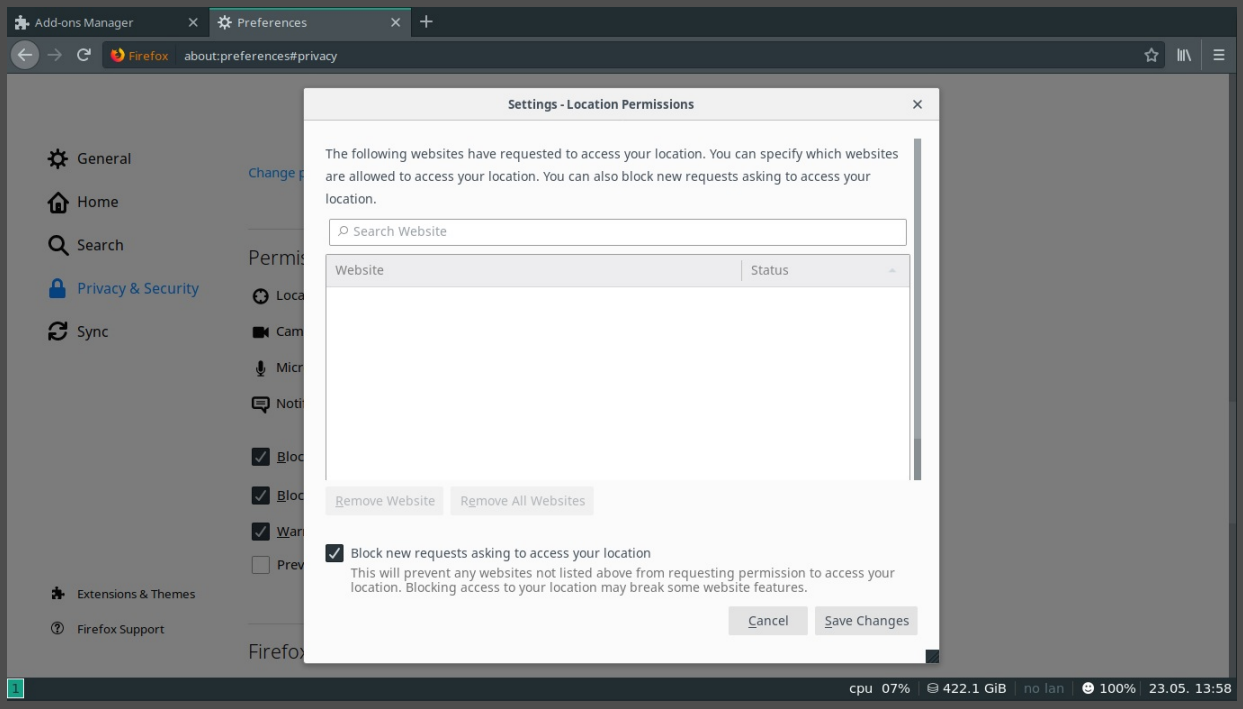
In the menu item `search` we throw all search engines out of our browser, because what we don't need doesn't have to be installed in our system. Only Duckduckgo we leave installed. This search engine is currently the best alternative to other search engines even if the servers are located in America and therefore you should trust them (as Europeans) only conditionally. The duck has so far the best search results and protects its own data as well as possible. You can set the search bar as you like. I personally prefer the search within the address bar, because the other solution seems redundant to me. But you can decide for yourself and this setting doesn't change the security of the Firefox browser. The hook at `provide search suggestions` is removed, because what we are looking for should not be saved.



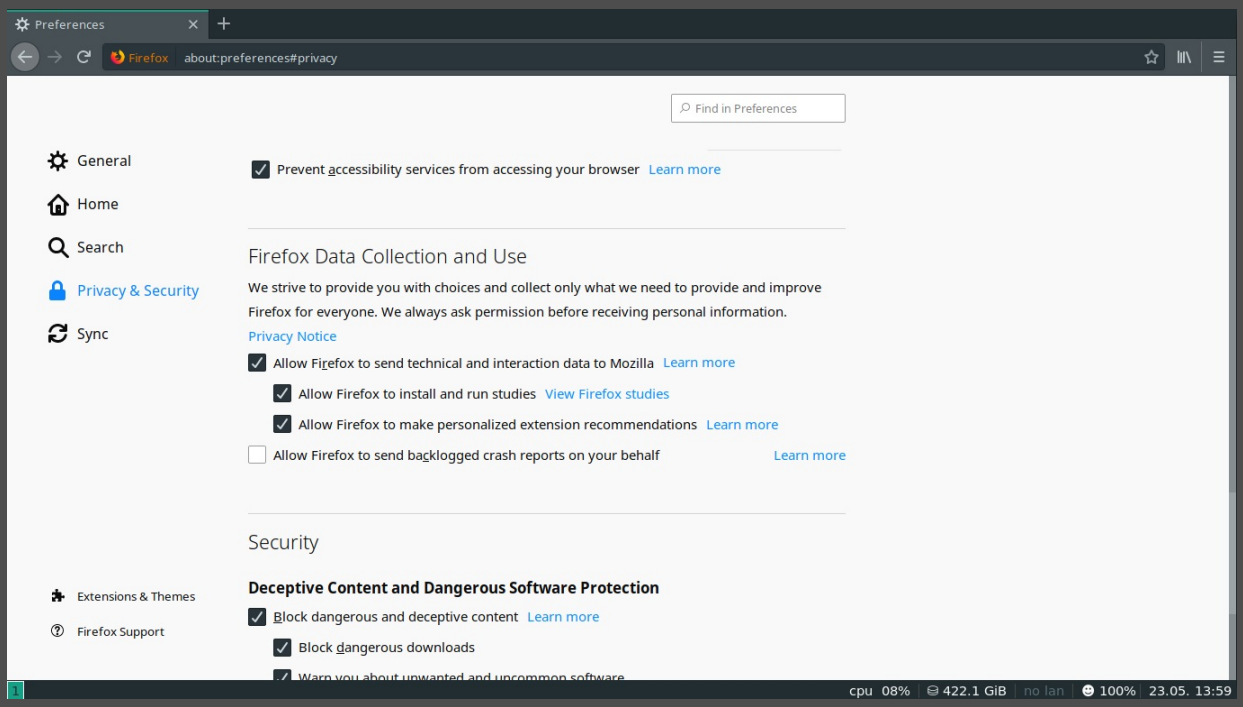
At the menu item `privacy & security` we come to the important settings, which we should have a closer look at. The sub-item `content blocking` is set to `strict`. I want all tracks to be blocked by Firefox. This includes third party cookies, which nobody needs on their computer. As you can see in the message, some websites may not work properly. But then you should not make any compromises, but rather ask yourself the question, why that is so and how important the site is to you that no longer works. With `do not track` I set the checkbutton to `always`. Most websites don't stick to it anyway, but some are already blocked with it and maybe that will bring something in the near future. The reality so far is that the responsible site operators, advertising companies and other providers give a fuck about what settings you have in your browser. They then try to get

around it as quickly as possible.

Since I permanently use the Firefox browser in private mode, cookies are deleted when I close the software. You should do the same. With `login passwords` we remove the hook, because there is nothing stupider to store your passwords somewhere, because you are too lazy. Whoever does this is to blame when criminal hackers pick up passwords and gets no pity from me. Yes, it is so beautifully simple. It's also easy to skip the safety course to skydiving. But don't be surprised if something goes wrong. We also tell Firefox not to save a history because it should not be saved on our operating system. Remember that. This is all information (mostly even very personal) that is stored about your search behavior. Even if you visit a porn website. Your parents know this too (at the latest when they have read this tutorial). With `adress bar` we put all hooks away, because we do not want to get any search suggestions. The less data we store, the less you can work with them against us.

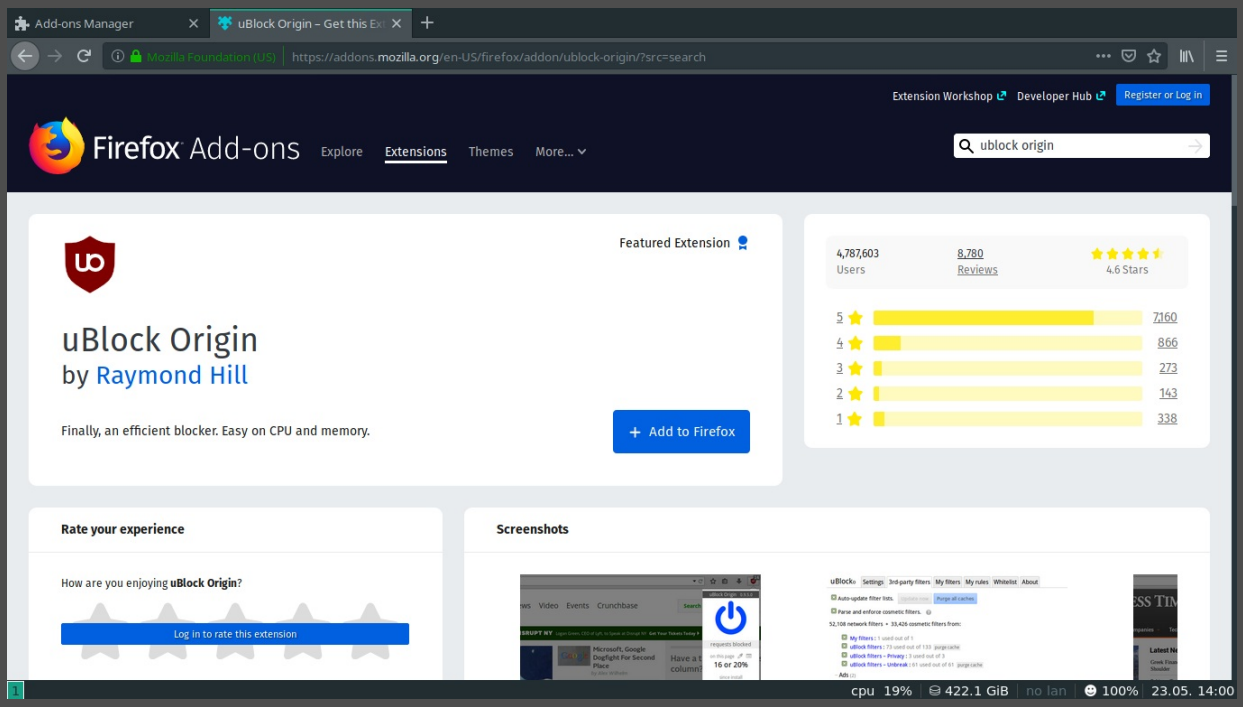


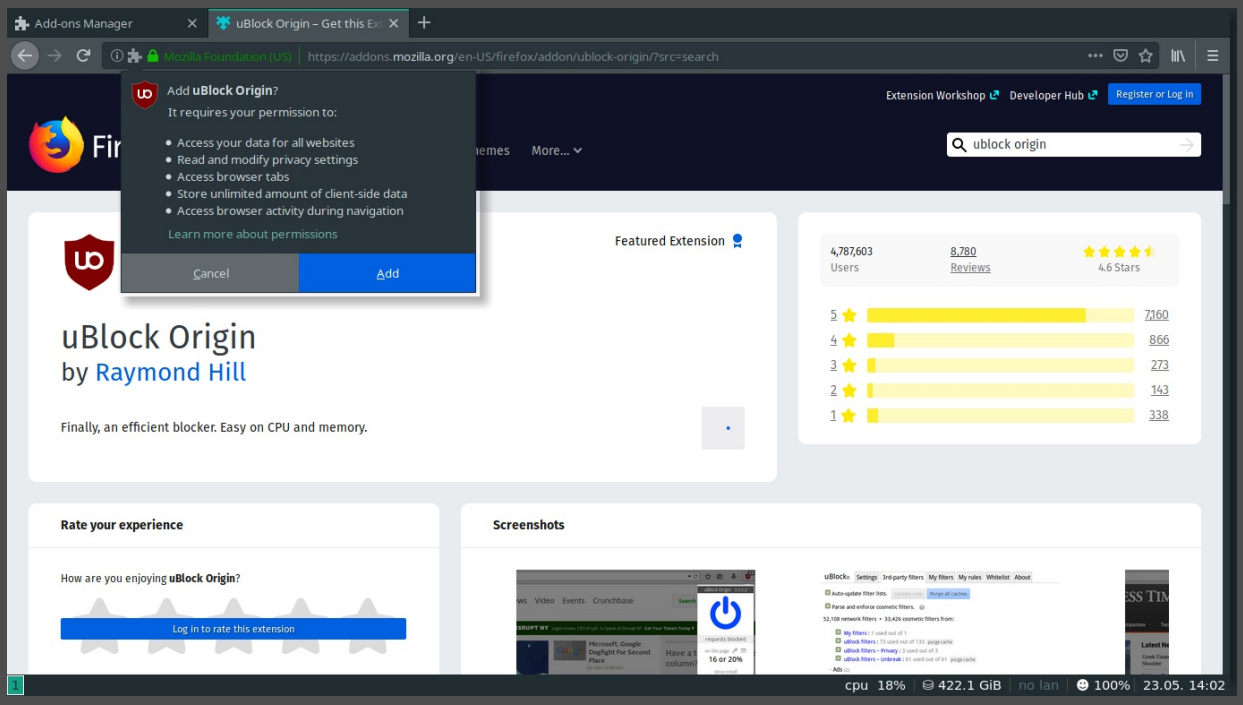
The next section is also the point that bothers me the most about Firefox. Not only were most of these points designed with darkpattern under `permissions`, but they should also be disabled from the start. You have to remove a small tick under each item of `block new requests asking to access ...` and that takes time. my very important lifetime. Here Mozilla should strive for consistent changes, because I just don't want to be able to access the websites or services on my location, camera or microphone. I also don't want to get any important news, most of the time these are just nonsense and cost my attention. A webcam should anyway always be taped with a small piece of black tape, because if you research the Internet for a few minutes, you can see how easy it is to access them. Also the other four points under the permissions we provide with a hook.

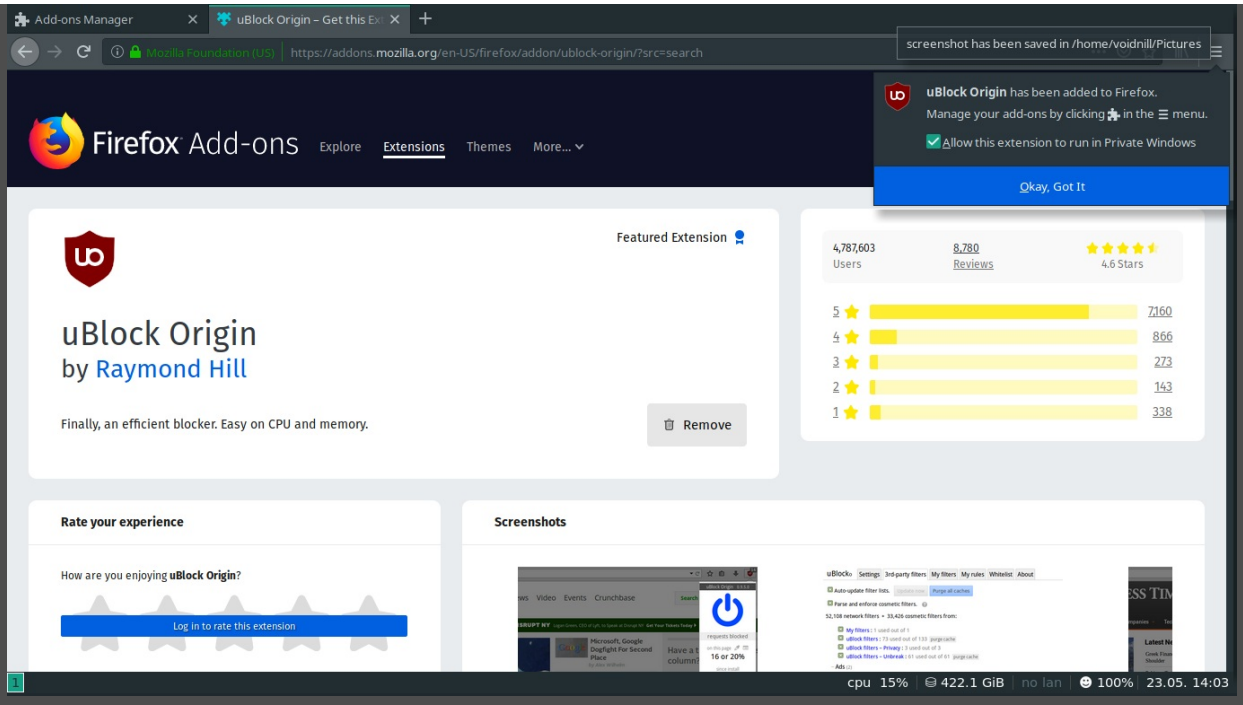


This point must be decided after own consideration. Yes, you can support the Firefox project by providing your data anonymously. Most of the time these are technical log files that only

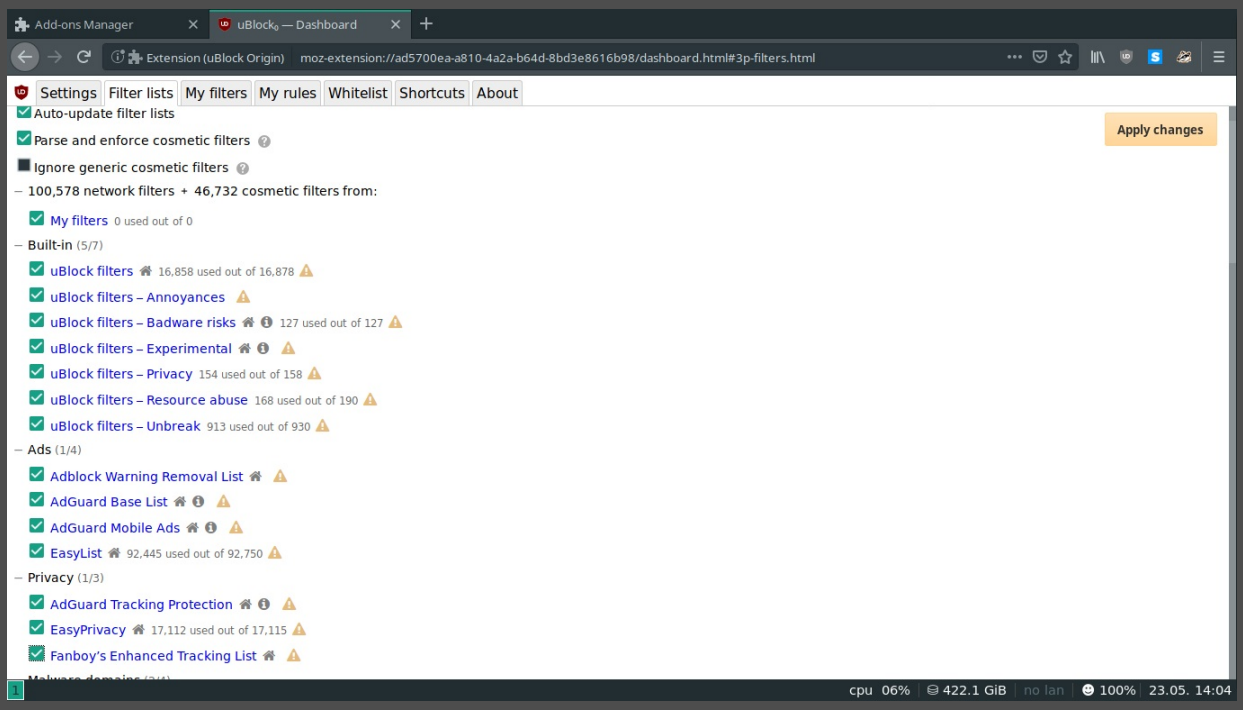
technicians can use. Nevertheless, these are data that are stored about my operating system, surfing behavior, browser specifications, addons, etc. and transmitted to third parties. From the point of view of a computer scientist, I do not consider the philosophy of anonymous data anyway to be a good nonsense and its argumentation to be tenable from a scientific-technical point of view. There is only one kind of anonymous data and these data are not created at all. I don't disclose any data here, even if I can only argue with *I don't trust Mozilla*. In the next section we will install three addons, which I (from my personal point of view) consider very important.

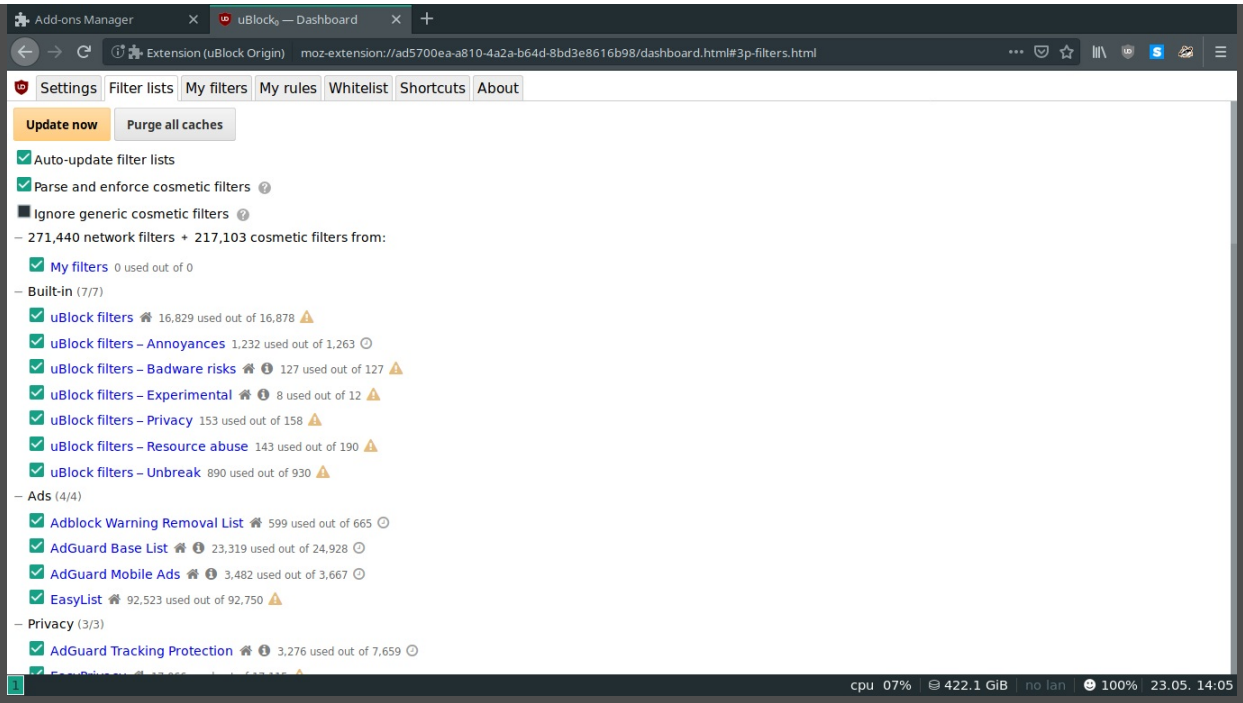




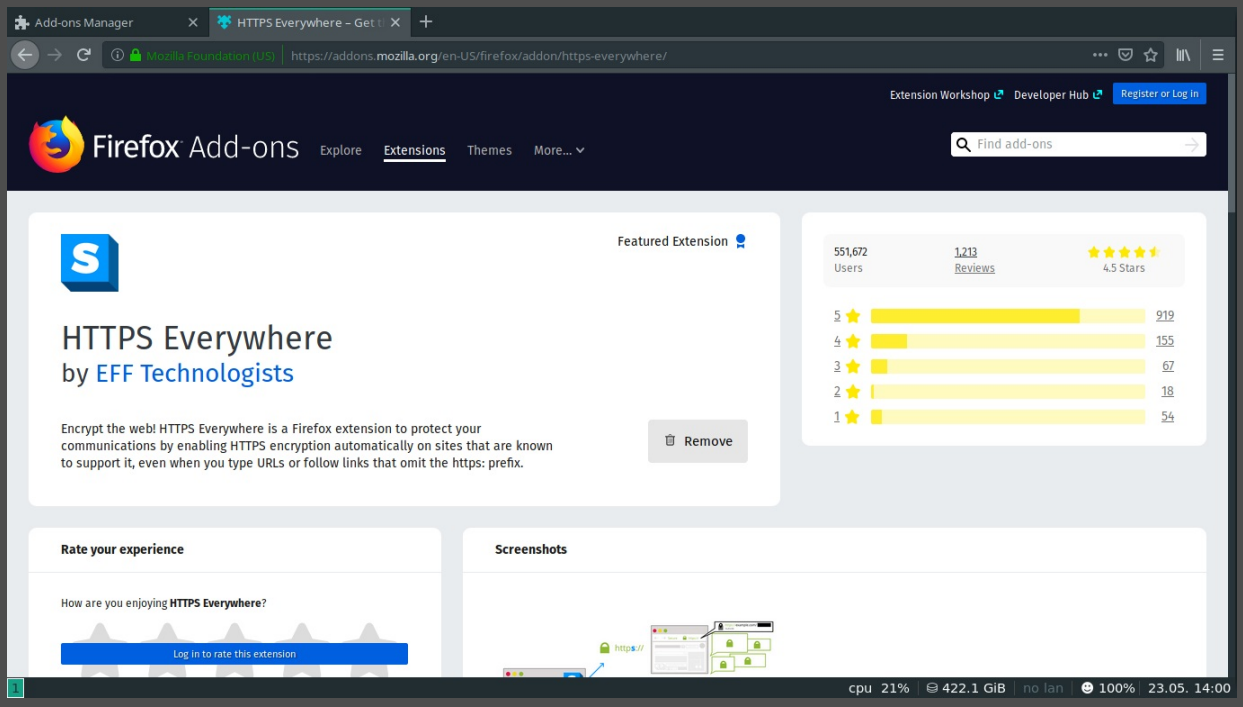


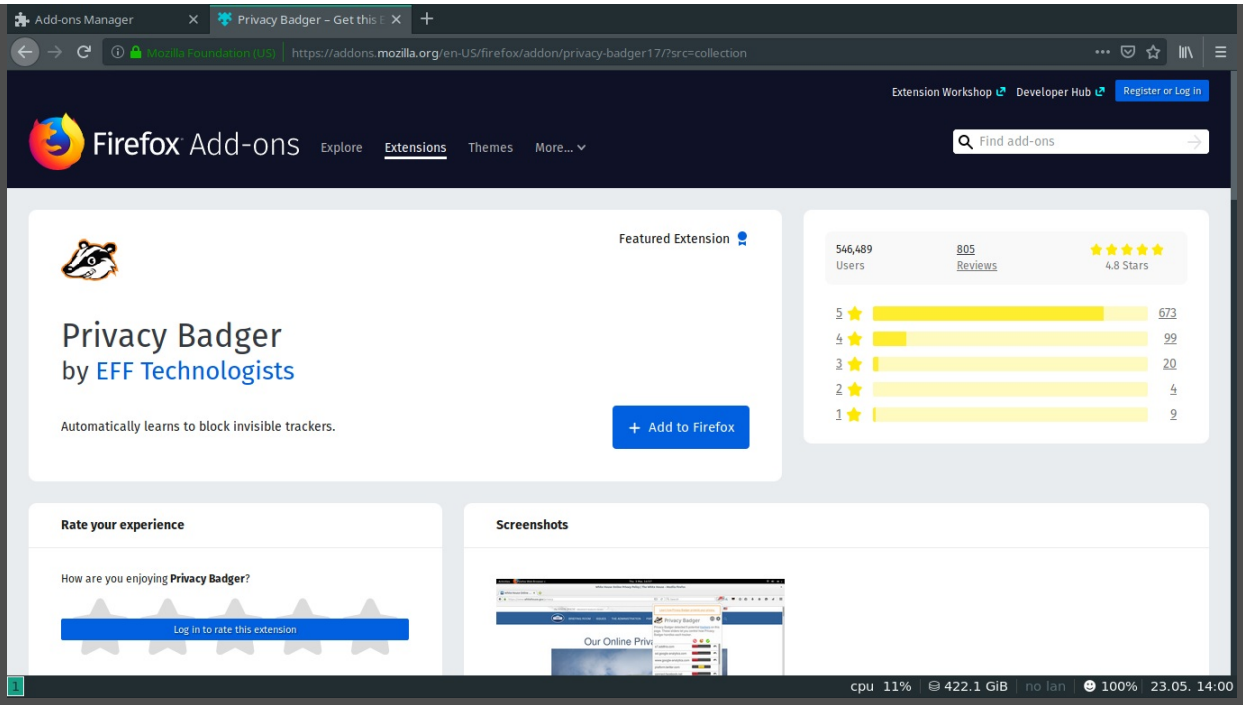
First we install the UBlock Origin Addon. This allows us to block all the annoying advertising that wastes our time, stores personal information, and poses a security risk to our operating system. Advertising on the Internet is unnecessary, because good (or bad) products talk about themselves in the social. I have never bought a product in my life because I have seen an advertisement on the web. Also, the browser slows down without an ad blocker and that really annoys me. After we have installed Ublock Origin, we have to allow it in an extra window (left side). After that, a message appears on the right side of the monitor that we should edit further settings. There is also a small checkbox, where we check again, because we want the addon to be used in private mode as well.





Now we need to adjust the settings of Ublock Origin. Don't worry, it looks worse on the screenshots than it really is. We click on the small minus sign to the left of `[...] network filters [...]`, which shows all checkboxes. Now we click all checkboxes individually with the mouse pointer, so that all are really selected. It would be nice if the developers at Ublock Origin could come up with a better solution, such as a checkbox next to `select all checkboxes`. Then we press the `apply changes` button in the upper right corner. This will implement our change. Now we update all lists with the `update now` button and are already at the last step for this plugin.





Now we install HTTPS Everywhere and Privacy Badger from EFF Technologist. We find these two addons by entering the names in the search box in the upper right corner. When we're done, it should look like the last screenshot. At this point there are certainly some people who would install other or better plugins if it were their browser. You can do that too. I even ask you not to chew everything I say here blindly, but to start thinking for yourself. Just because I'm of the opinion that this is good, it doesn't have to be true. Information can change on the internet within a few seconds and this also applies to addons or certain settings in the Firefox browser. At the latest with the next update, everything can have changed there again. As I already mentioned at the beginning of the tutorial, this is only for beginners so that these people can find a start to deal with the topic at all.